



**SALGA**  
South African Local Government Association

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Date: 13 March 2015

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release  
13 March 2015

### SALGA condemns 'burning' of Mayor's House in Mpumalanga

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) strongly condemns the burning of Executive Mayor's house and a motor vehicle in Mpumalanga, Balfour, at Siyathemba location.

According to the South African Police Service (SAPS), a crowd in Balfour torched the home and the vehicle that was in the garage of Executive Mayor of Dipaleseng Municipality, Cllr Sarah Nhlapo, following a protest in the area.

SALGA strongly condemns violent protests and calls for communities to isolate those who use violence and destruction to express their grievances and calls for the law enforcements to bring the culprits into book to face the consequences of their actions.

Regardless of the grievances people may have, violent protests only aggravate the challenges communities face and have no place in a democratic South Africa. Communities need to rid themselves the culture of destruction when embarking on protests. With the limited fiscal that municipalities operate with, the reality is that many municipalities have limited resources or means to rebuild the facilities that protesters destroy.

SALGA calls for communities to make use of community structures and systems such as Ward Committees, public participation programmes and Integrated Development Planning (IDP) engagements which gives communities direct participation in the governing of their respective Councils.

The Constitution protects the rights of everyone to assemble, demonstrate, picket and present petitions in an unarmed and peaceful manner. The Constitution also provides a number of

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other options to claim our rights in a peaceful and lawful manner. These rights, however, by no means allow for criminal behaviour such as the destruction of property, or the intimidation and assault of other individuals in pursuit of any objective.

SALGA calls on all government institutions to extend an invitation to residents for public engagement and commit themselves to speedy resolutions.

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**Issued by: South African Local Government Association**

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